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9/7/1960

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE REPORT

AGR REPORT NO.

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FROM : AMEMBASSY, HELSINKI

TO : DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON

REF : Code 11 C.

SUBJECT : FINLAND - GRAINS AND FEEDS - 1960 GRAIN CROP FORECAST

4452365

Distribution
Agriculture/10

Based on conditions as of August 15, the 1960 crop of bread grains in Finland has been forecast at about 545,000 metric tons, 35 percent over the 405,000 tons harvested in 1959. Estimates for the coarse grain crop total 1,502,000 tons, or 42 percent more than last year. However, these forecasts by the Finnish Board of Agriculture are preliminary, particularly in view of continued unfavorable weather, which is delaying harvesting operations with considerable detriment to grain crops. For this reason a new field survey will be conducted exceptionally on September 15.

Broken down by types, the crop is estimated to comprise 356,000 metric tons of winter and spring wheat, 189,300 tons of rye, 420,500 tons of barley, 1,034,000 tons of oats and 47,500 tons of mixed grain. Quantitatively, the overall prospects at this date are for a 40 percent greater production of broad and coarse grains than in 1959 as a result of larger areas for harvest in all but barley and mixed grain and of generally excellent growing conditions from mid-June to mid-July. However, dry weather at seeding time last fall reduced the per hectare yield of winter wheat to the lowest in ten years.

Considerable deterioration of quality has been caused by heavy precipitation since mid-July. Lodging has been serious in most regions, with the exception of north Finland, resulting in delayed filling and in sprouting of kernels in the heads. Excessive moisture has also promoted plant diseases. While the better weather conditions in central, east and north Finland generally permitted early entering and harvesting, the situation in west and south Finland is described as alarming. Harvesting is delayed and the use of mechanical equipment on some fields is difficult or impossible. Manual harvesting and separate drying in special drying plants may be necessary in many localities where weather permits harvesting.

Revision to AR-6, para 3, based on earlier acreage estimate by Board of Agriculture.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

INFO COPY

Numerical data on the grain production of the A.S. at 15, 16, and 17, enclosure 1, with comparative figures for the years 1959 and 1960, and the 1959 crop data.

For the Director:

William K. Miller
Director of Research
for Economic Affairs

Enclosure 1:

Preliminary Grain Crop Forecast,
Based on Conditions in A.S. at 15,
1960, with Comparisons for 1959.

cc. Agricultural Attaché,
Stockholm.

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FINLAND: Preliminary Grain Crop Forecast, Based on Conditions on August 15, 1960,
with Comparisons for 1959

	Area for Harvest		Indicated Yield per Hectare				Indicated Production		
	Total 1959	Aug. 15, 1960	Change from 1959	Aug. 15, 1959	Total 1959	Aug. 15, 1960	Aug. 15, 1959	Total 1959	Aug. 15, 1960
	hect.			1/	kg.	1/	kg.	MT	MT
Wheat	19,875	37,056	+17,181	+86.4	2,338	2,137	77	14,000	11,141
Spring "	119,341	113,665	-5,676	-4.8	1,563	1,677	101	193,761	200,167
Rye	103,330	110,725	+7,395	+7.2	1,580	1,366	24	172,000	152,911
Total bread grain	222,546	261,446	+38,900	+17.5				409,761	434,219
Barley	232,869	212,652	-20,217	-8.7	81	1,160	1,05	1,978	356,090
Oats	160,895	190,340	+29,445	+18.3	79	1,500	1,21	2,109	685,215
Other grain	27,485	24,329	-3,156	-11.5	75	1,320	1,164	104	1,920
Total coarse grain	721,249	727,321	+6,072	+0.8				1,067,923	1,043,225
Total all grain	943,795	1,018,767	+75,000	+7.9				1,477,684	1,477,444

1/ Estimated percentage of normal yield per hectare.

2/ Includes a high percentage of grain damaged by continued unfavorable weather at time of maturity and harvesting. No estimate available of such substandard grain.

Source: Compiled from crop reports of the Finnish Board of Agriculture, August 31, 1959; July 30, 1960, and August 31, 1960, and from unpublished data (1960 volume forecasts) from Board of Agriculture.